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For Immediate Release

Tuesday, October 8, 2002

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South Branch Traffic Court Project Aided by Intergovernmental Cooperation

LAKE COUNTY, IL – The Lake County Board approved two agreements today, Tuesday, October 8th, finalizing a cooperative effort between the county and the Village of Mundelein to provide access to public water and improve fire safety at the forthcoming South Branch Traffic Court and neighboring Diamond Lake School. Construction of the Lake County South Branch Traffic Court is underway on Diamond Lake Road and Route 60/83 in Mundelein, yet county officials continue to pursue partnerships with its neighbors in the area.

The county board reached an intergovernmental agreement with the Village of Mundelein to extend the village water main to the South Branch Traffic Court and its neighbor, Graham C-Stores. This agreement allows the county to provide fire sprinklers at the traffic court and for the installation of a fire hydrant at Diamond Lake School.

Board members also entered into a cost-sharing agreement with Graham C-Stores for improvements to the county's South Branch Traffic Court in Mundelein. As neighbors in Mundelein, the county and Graham C-Stores will share costs for sanitary sewer and water main improvements.

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The county and store will also share costs associated with extending the water main to Diamond Lake School. Graham C-Stores will construct an access drive and make access improvements on Diamond Lake Road.

Lake County's South Branch Traffic Court will reduce inordinate caseload pressure and make facilities more available to the communities in the southern region of the county. The court will serve the southern one-third of the county, including Barrington, Lincolnshire and Mundelein.

County officials anticipate the court will open by the summer of 2003.

Officials sought to design a cost-effective building to accommodate the unique operations of a traffic courtroom. To accomplish this, HLM Design USA from Chicago, the architect for the project, consulted with focus groups of judges, police officers, service providers and other users in designing the building. The construction budget for the new facility is \$1,595,000.

Agreements approved today at the monthly county board meeting allow the county to share costs for sewer and water utilities and extend village water mains to the facility and a neighboring school. Extending the water main allows the county to add fire protection at the court facility and Diamond Lake School.

The South Branch Traffic Court will have one judge and one courtroom, an office of the Lake County Circuit Clerk and officers from the Sheriff's Office securing the facility.